



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 June, 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 30 May 2014 from H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium and H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, the Co-facilitators of the consultation process on the outcome document to be adopted at the high-level meeting on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The Co-facilitators are transmitting the zero draft of a possible outcome document in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/271, and have indicated that the first general discussion on the draft will take place during the first week of June.

I encourage your Excellency's delegation to participate actively in this meeting, the venue and time of which will subsequently be communicated in the Journal of the United Nations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Encl.1

New York, 30 May 2014

Excellency,

As co-facilitators for the modalities resolution concerning the review meeting of the 2011 Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), we have been conducting on behalf of the President of the General Assembly a series of consultations resulting in the adoption by the General Assembly on 13 May 2014 of Resolution 68/271. With this resolution, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting on 10 and 11 July 2014 to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the Political Declaration.

With his letter of 14 May 2014, the President of the General Assembly has reappointed us as co-facilitators for the consultation process on the outcome document to be adopted by the review meeting. Please find enclosed for your consideration a zero draft of a possible outcome document that should be "concise, focused and action-oriented" (paragraph 8 of 68/271).

We are planning to hold a first general discussion on the zero draft to collect your views and recommendations during the first week of June. The exact time and venue will be announced in the Journal.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Bénédicte Frankinet
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

Courtney Rattray
Permanent Representative of Jamaica
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**OUTCOME OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE REVIEW OF THE
PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES (ZERO DRAFT – 29 MAY 2014)**

We, Ministers and representatives of States and Governments assembled at the United Nations from 10 to 11 July 2014 to take stock of the progress made in implementing the commitments in the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases:

1. Reaffirm the Political Declaration, which has catalyzed action and retains great power in engendering action for faster results.
2. Reaffirm our commitment to address the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases which constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, and undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.
3. Acknowledge that many countries, in particular developing countries, are struggling to move from commitment to action and in this regard, emphasize the importance of demonstrating what works and what does not and in particular the specific interventions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases that may be considered very cost-effective and affordable, and have already produced considerable gains in many countries.
4. Recognize that these very cost-effective and affordable interventions to reduce modifiable risk factors for non-communicable diseases include:
 - a. Reduce the affordability of tobacco products by increasing tobacco excise taxes;
 - b. Create legislation for completely smoke-free environments in all indoor workplaces, public places and transport;
 - c. Warn people of the dangers of tobacco and tobacco smoke through effective health warning and mass media campaigns;
 - d. Ban all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship;
 - e. Regulate commercial and public availability of alcohol;
 - f. Restrict or ban alcohol advertising and promotions;
 - g. Use pricing policies for reducing the harmful use of alcohol, such as excise tax increases on alcoholic beverages;
 - h. Reduce salt intake and adjust the iodine content of iodized salt, when relevant;
 - i. Replace trans-fats with unsaturated fat;
 - j. Implement public awareness programs on diet and physical activity.
5. Also recognize that there are very cost-effective interventions for national health-care systems, such as:
 - a. Drug therapy and counselling for individuals who have had a heart attack or stroke and for persons at high risk of cardiovascular events in the next ten years;
 - b. Aspirin for acute myocardial infarction;

- c. Prevention of liver cancer through hepatitis B immunization;
 - d. Prevention of cervical cancer through screening linked with timely treatment of pre-cancerous lesions.
6. Welcome the following global assignments that have been created since 2011 under the stewardship of the World Health Organization and with full participation of Member States:
- a. The comprehensive global monitoring framework for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including a set of nine voluntary global targets and 25 indicators;
 - b. the Global Action Plan for the prevention and control on non-communicable diseases 2013-2020, including the set of Action Plan indicators;
 - c. 9 action plan indicators to inform progress made in the process of implementing the Global Action Plan;
 - d. the Inter-Agency Task Force on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, established by the Secretary-General;
 - e. the global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
7. Reaffirm the remarkable progress since September 2011 achieved at national level, including an increase in the number of countries with an operational policy to address non-communicable diseases with a dedicated budget from 32 per cent of countries in 2010 to 50 per cent of countries in 2013.
8. Acknowledge that together with significant improvement in country capacity for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, existing components of the necessary national policies and plans are often not adequately funded or operational.
9. Also acknowledge that, although an increased number of private sector entities have started to produce and promote food products consistent with a healthy diet, these products are not always affordable, accessible and available in most developing countries, that limited progress is registered in the reduction of the use of salt in food, and that there is also little progress in reducing the impact of marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, including due to a lack of measurement and monitoring mechanisms.
10. Recognize that the implementation of enhanced prevention and control approaches requires leadership, coordinated multi-stakeholder engagement and multisectoral action for health both at the government level and at the level of a wide range of actors, and that such engagement and action include, as appropriate, health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government approaches across sectors.
11. Commit ourselves to take the following measures as a matter of priority:
- a. Governance:
 - i. By 2015, set national targets for 2025 based on national situations, taking into account the nine global targets for non-communicable diseases;

- ii. By 2015, develop national multisectoral policies and plans to achieve these targets in 2025, taking into account the WHO Global Action Plan;
 - iii. Raise awareness about the national public health burden caused by non-communicable diseases and the relationship between non-communicable diseases, poverty and development;
 - iv. Integrate non-communicable diseases into health-planning processes and the national development agenda, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework design processes and implementation.
 - b. Reduce exposure to risk factors for non-communicable diseases by implementing, by 2016, the very cost-effective and affordable interventions mentioned in paragraph 4 of this document.
 - c. Enable health systems to respond by implementing, by 2016, the very cost-effective and affordable interventions mentioned in paragraph 5 of this document.
 - d. Measure results:
 - i. Strengthen surveillance for non-communicable diseases, covering monitoring of risk factors and determinants, outcomes (mortality and morbidity), and health system response, and integrate that effort into the national health information systems, to ensure collection of data on the 25 indicators and progress towards the nine voluntary global targets for non-communicable diseases;
 - ii. Contribute information on trends in non-communicable diseases to WHO, on progress made in the implementation of national action plans and on the effectiveness of national policies and strategies, coordinating country reporting with global analyses.
12. Call for an adequate mobilization of resources, both domestic and external, to support the implementation of national efforts to address non-communicable diseases¹.
13. Give due consideration to the serious socio-economic consequences of non-communicable diseases, in particular the links to poverty, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and include the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the new set of goals and targets of the agenda.
14. Call upon the World Health Organization, with the full participation of Member States, through the governing bodies of the WHO, to develop, before the end of 2014, a set of process indicators capable of application at country level, to monitor progress made in the realization of the Political Declaration.
15. Call upon the World Health Organization, with the full participation of Member States, through the governing bodies of the WHO, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies,

¹ Building on the Working Group to be established under the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of NCDs to recommend ways and means of encouraging Member States and non-State actors to realize the commitment included in paragraph 45(d) of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs.

funds and programs, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on the work already under way, to develop, before the end of 2015, a country framework for action to engage sectors beyond health in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

16. Call upon the World Health Organization, with the full participation of Member States, through the governing bodies of the WHO, and in collaboration with non-state actors, to develop, before the end of 2015, a tool to measure the contribution of the private sector and civil society to the nine voluntary targets for non-communicable diseases.

17. Urge the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force to support national efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and the realization of the commitments made in the 2011 Political Declaration and in this document.

18. Urge the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism to start its work in facilitating and enhancing coordination of activities, multistakeholder engagement and action across sectors at the local, national, regional and global levels, in order to contribute to the WHO Global Action Plan.

19. Request the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization to submit by the end of 2015 to the General Assembly, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in realizing the global assignments given to the WHO in this document.

20. Request the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization to submit by the end of 2016 to the General Assembly, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in realizing the commitments, taking into account the process indicators that will be developed to measure progress towards implementing the 2011 Political Declaration, in preparation for a comprehensive review in 2017 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.